



Report of Office of Police & Crime Commissioner

Independent Custody Visitors findings – May 2019

The Acting Police & Crime Commissioner, Ruth Durham, would like to take this opportunity to thank Independent Custody Visitors for the work they have undertaken when visiting custody suites within the Northumbria Force area. The ICVs are valued members of the volunteer team. Below are the points raised during **May 2019** from the stations visited.

Issues Raised following introduction of PCC ICV Custody Suite Questionnaire

Following the 2014 HMIC Inspection into Northumbria Police Custody, a number of recommendations were made by HMIC to improve the custody process and service offered to detainees.

Northumbria Police have produced an action plan to address the issues raised with added checks by officers that these recommendations are being delivered. The Commissioner requested that ICV's be part of this process to make sure that an independent check that the force are delivering on these recommendations is made.

The OPCC produced a checklist of questions with each question relating to a specific recommendation in the report. During the month of **May 2019** no issues of concern were highlighted by visitors in addition to the areas highlighted below.

Berwick

All areas clean and tidy, food in date and ICVs warmly welcomed. Medical and food stores checked and all in order.

Southwick

Suite clean and tidy, food checked and all in order and staff polite and helpful.

Areas for improvement:

Number of female hygiene packs not correctly stored

Force Response: the packs are normally correctly stored. This was a temporary situation, which didn't comply with normal working practices.

Hygiene Packs are stored in a clear plastic sealed hygienic bag and the bags are stored in a box in the store cupboard ready for use.

North Tyneside – Middle Engine Lane

Custody suite clean and tidy
Staff polite and helpful

Areas for Improvement:

Outside yard in need of cleaning

Clothes and shoe lockers left open outside of detainee cells

Force Response:

It is unclear from the report whether the yard refers to the entrance dock or the exercise yard. In order to improve and maintain standards the custody Inspector responsible for that suite has made arrangements with the maintenance supervisor to have both areas inspected and cleaned.

In relation to the issue of clothing being left outside of the footlockers a reminder has been sent to all staff working at MEL of the importance of maintaining a safe and tidy working environment.

Forth Banks

Suite clean and tidy and all in order.

No issues raised.

Staff commented on their knowledge when discussing the visit with visitors.